

In the Claims

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment is made. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to a service, comprising:
providing at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the providing the at least the subset of the directory comprising:

receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and

identifying the subset of the directory according to the search value;

receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;

receiving a user identifier;

linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and

allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein providing at least the subset of the directory of the plurality of services to the portal communicating with the user system further comprises:

providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;

receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system, the selected category comprising the subset of the directory; and

providing at least the subset of the directory.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions further comprises:

verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and

providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service furnished by at least one third party vendor.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions further comprises:

determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;

calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and

providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more selected services.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions further comprises allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for providing access to a service, comprising:
a database operable to store a directory of a plurality of services; and
a service engine coupled to the database and operable to:

provide at least a subset of the directory of the plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the providing the at least the subset of the directory comprising:

receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and

identifying the subset of the directory according to the search value;

receive a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;

receive a user identifier;

link the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and

allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The system of Claim 7, the service engine operable to provide at least the subset of the directory of the plurality of services to the portal communicating with the user system by:

providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;

receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system, the selected category comprising the subset of the directory; and

providing at least the subset of the directory.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 7, the service engine operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:

verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and

providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service furnished by at least one third party vendor.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 7, the service engine operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:

determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;

calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and

providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more selected services.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 7, the service engine operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

13. (Currently Amended) Software for providing access to a service, the software embodied in a medium and when executed operable to:

provide at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the providing the at least the subset of the directory comprising:

receive, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

query the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value;
and

identify the subset of the directory according to the search value;

receive a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;

receive a user identifier;

link the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and

allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The software of Claim 13, operable to provide at least the subset of the directory of the plurality of services to the portal communicating with the user system by:

providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;

receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system, the selected category comprising the subset of the directory; and

providing at least the subset of the directory.

16. (Original) The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:
verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier; and
providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service furnished by at least one third party vendor.

17. (Original) The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by:
determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more selected services.

18. (Original) The software of Claim 13, operable to allow the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions by allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal.

19. (Currently Amended) A system for providing access to a service, comprising:
means for providing at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the providing the at least the subset of the directory comprising:

receiving, from the user system, a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services;

querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value; and

identifying the subset of the directory according to the search value;

means for receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;

means for receiving a user identifier;

means for linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and

means for allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services according to the one or more conditions.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to a service, comprising:

providing at least a subset of a directory of a plurality of services to a portal communicating with a user system, the plurality of services associated with a plurality of third party vendors, a service of the plurality of services comprising use of a software application, the subset of a directory provided by:

- providing a list of a plurality of categories of the plurality of services;
- receiving a selected category of the plurality of categories from the user system;
- receiving a user-specified search value of a search variable directed to a feature indicating a type of software application of at least one service of the services, from the user system;
- querying the directory of the plurality of services according to the search value;
- identifying the subset of the directory according to the search value and to the selected category; and
- providing at least the subset of the directory;

receiving a selection of one or more selected services of the plurality of services from the user system, the one or more selected services associated with one or more conditions governing access to the one or more selected services;

- receiving a user identifier;
- linking the one or more selected services with the user identifier; and
- allowing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services through the portal according to the one or more conditions, the access allowed by:
 - verifying a passcode corresponding to the user identifier;
 - providing the user identifier access to the one or more selected services in response to verifying the passcode, the one or more selected services comprising at least one service furnished by at least one third party vendor;
 - determining usage of access to the one or more selected services;
 - calculating compensation for the usage according to the one or more conditions; and
 - providing the compensation to at least one third party vendor furnishing the one or more selected services.